

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please add new claim 24.

1. (Currently Amended) A joint for bullet traps, the joint comprising:

a first plate;

a second plate disposed in a linear arrangement with the first plate so as to form a joint;

and

a facing strip disposed along the joint, the facing strip having a first end and a second end with lateral edges extending along the sides therebetween configured for engaging the first plate and the second plate, the facing strip being bent between the lateral edges of the facing strip so as to slope outwardly toward the first plate and the second plate and contact the first plate and the second plate only at the lateral edges of the facing strip;

a backing means placed along the joint on the side of the first and second plates opposite the facing strip; and

at least one bolt for attaching the facing strip to the backing means, the at least one bolt being attached to the facing strip without penetrating therethrough.

2. (Currently Amended) The joint for bullet traps of claim 1, ~~wherein the facing strip further comprising~~ comprises at least one bracket attached to the facing strip thereto for receiving a bolt.

3. (Original) The joint for bullet traps of claim 2, wherein the at least one bracket comprises an opening for sliding a bolt into the bracket.
4. (Original) The joint for bullet traps of claim 2, wherein the at least one bracket comprises at least two brackets each having an opening for receiving a bolt, and wherein the openings on the at least two brackets are disposed on opposite sides of the brackets from one another.
5. (Original) The joint for bullet traps of claim 1, wherein the facing strip has walls extending rearwardly to the first plate and the second plate at an angle of about 12.5 degrees.
6. (Currently Amended) The joint for bullet traps of claim 1, wherein the bracket contacts the first and second plates. only portion of the facing strip which touches the first plate and the second plate are the lateral edges extending the length of the facing strip.
7. (Currently Amended) A joint ~~strip for attaching plates~~ of a bullet trap, the joint ~~strip~~ comprising:
- a first bullet proof plate;
  - a second bullet proof plate having an edge disposed adjacent an edge of the first bullet proof plate;
  - a facing strip having a bent central portion and walls having lateral edges extending substantially the length of the facing strip and extending away from the bent central portion, the facing strip disposed along the adjacent edges of the first and second plates such that only the lateral edges of the facing strip contact the first and second plates; and

at least one bracket attached to the facing strip for engaging a bolt so as to hold the bolt to the facing strip without penetrating therethrough; and

at least one bolt for holding the facing strip against the first and second plates.

8. (Currently Amended) The joint ~~strip~~ according to claim 7, wherein the walls of the facing strip extend rearwardly from the bent central portion at an angle of about 12.5 degrees.

9. (Currently Amended) The joint ~~strip~~ according to claim 7, wherein the at least one bracket comprises a plurality of brackets, each of the brackets having an opening for receiving a bolt and at least two of the brackets having the opening on opposing sides thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A bullet proof joint ~~strip for attaching a pair of steel plates together,~~  
~~the joint strip~~ comprising:

a first bullet proof plate;

a second bullet proof plate having an edge thereof disposed adjacent an edge of the first bullet proof plate;

a facing strip configured to engage a pair of the first and second bullet proof steel plates,  
the facing strip being bent along the center thereof such that only the edges of the facing strip  
which are parallel to the bend contact the bullet proof plates; and

at least one bracket attached to the facing strip and having an opening for receiving the head of a bolt and for holding the bolt to the facing strip without penetrating therethrough; and

at least one bolt for holding the facing strip against the bullet proof plates.

11. (Currently Amended) The joint ~~strip~~ according to claim 10, wherein the at least one bracket comprises a plurality of brackets having openings, and wherein at least two of the brackets having openings disposed on opposite sides from one another.

12. (Currently Amended) The joint ~~strip~~ according to claim 10, wherein the facing strip has two walls disposed about 155 degrees from one another.

13. (Currently Amended) A bullet proof joint ~~strip for attaching a pair of steel plates together,~~  
~~the joint strip~~ comprising:

a pair of bullet proof steel plates disposed such that an edge of one plate is adjacent the edge of the other plate;

a joint strip disposed to cover the adjacent edges of the bullet proof plates comprising:

a facing strip defining a pair of sloped walls extending outwardly and rearwardly from a central portion extending along a long axis of the facing strip such that only the edges of the sloped walls contact the plates; and

means for attaching a plurality of bolts to the facing strip without the bolts penetrating through the facing strip;

a backing strip disposed to cover the adjacent edges of the bullet proof plates on the side of the plates opposite the facing strip; and

a plurality of bolts for holding the facing strip, bullet proof plates, and backing strip together.

14. (Currently Amended) The joint ~~strip~~ according to claim 13, wherein the means for attaching the plurality of bolts to the facing strip comprises ~~comprising~~ a plurality of brackets fixedly attached to the facing strip, each of the brackets being configured to receive a bolt.

15. (Currently Amended) The joint ~~strip~~ according to claim 14, wherein at least two of the brackets have slots ~~holes~~ for receiving a bolt, the slots ~~holes~~ being disposed on opposing sides of the brackets.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing splatter through a opening in a bullet trap, the method comprising:

disposing first and second plates adjacent one another so as to leave an opening;

selecting a facing strip, the facing strip being bent lengthwise into an angle;

selecting a plurality of attachment bolts;

attaching the plurality of attachment bolts to the facing strip such that the bolts do not penetrate the facing strip;

placing a facing strip over the opening generally parallel to the opening so that the facing strip slopes rearwardly and outwardly such that the only portion of the facing strip brought into engagement with the first and second plates to secure the plates together is the lateral edges of the facing strip.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the ~~facing strip has lateral edges extending the length of the facing strip and wherein the only portion of the facing strip which engage the first and second plates is the lateral edges~~ method further comprises attaching

the plurality of attachment bolts to the facing strip with brackets prior to the placement of the facing strip against the plates.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17 ~~16~~, ~~wherein the facing strip has a plurality of brackets attached thereto, and~~ wherein the method further comprises removably positioning the bolts in the brackets.

19. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 17 ~~18~~, wherein ~~the method further comprises selecting a facing strip whereon~~ at least two of the brackets have openings for receiving the bolts, and wherein the openings are disposed on opposing sides of the brackets.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a section of a bullet trap, the method comprising:

placing first and second plates adjacent one another so as to leave a seam therebetween;

selecting a joint strip having a facing strip which is beveled to have two rearwardly extending walls terminating at lateral edges and a bracket attached to the facing strip for holding an end of a bolt to the facing strip, the bracket being attached to the facing strip independent of the bolt; ~~and~~

covering the seam between the plates with the facing strip so that the bolt extends through the seam; and

engaging the lateral edges of the facing strip with the first and second plates so that the only portion of the facing strip which touches the first and second plates is the lateral edges.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method further comprises placing a backing strip along the seam on the side of the plates opposite the joint strip. ~~selecting a facing strip having a facing strip which is beveled to have two rearwardly extending walls terminating at lateral edges.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~20~~ 21, wherein the method further comprises selecting a joint strip having a plurality of brackets attached to the facing strip for holding a plurality of bolts. ~~engaging the lateral edges of the facing strip with the first and second plates so that the only portion of the facing strip which touches the first and second plates is the lateral edges.~~

23. (Currently Withdrawn) A method for preventing splatter through between two plates disposed at a generally perpendicular angle, the method comprising:  
disposing a first plate and a second plate so that the plates are disposed generally perpendicular;  
attaching the first plate and the second plate to one another by a generally L-shaped angle joint;  
and  
positioning a generally flat plate in front of the generally L-shaped angle joint so that the generally flat plate extends from the first plate to the second plate and thereby conceals the angle joint.

24. (New) A method for forming a bullet proof joint, the method comprising:  
placing an edge of a first steel plate adjacent an edge of a second plate so as to form a joint;

selecting a joint strip, the joint strip comprising a facing strip which is formed to have two rearwardly extending walls terminating at lateral edges and at least one bracket attached to the facing strip for holding an end of a bolt to the facing strip, the at least one bracket being attached to the facing strip independent of the bolt; and

covering the joint between the steel plates with the joint strip so that the only portion of the facing strip which touches the first and second plates is the lateral edges.